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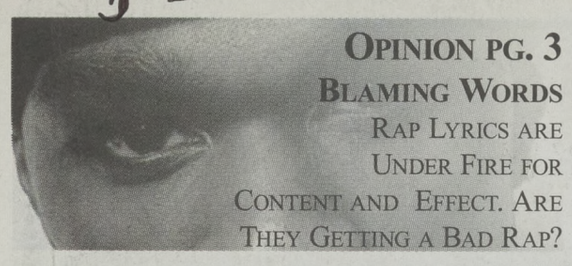

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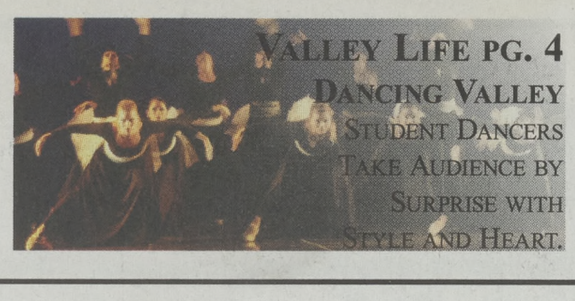
RAP LYRICS ARE UNDER FIRE FOR CONTENT AND EFFECT. ARE THEY GETTING A BAD RAP?



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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 66, ISSUE NO. 10 | MAY 23, 2007 | IT'S *YOUR* PAPER

VALLEY PEOPLE

Yacovone Looks Forward

BY KHARA HUBERMAN
COPY EDITOR

Before Thomas Yacovone was Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) director, there were only nine honor classes, but 13 years and a retirement later the program has more than 80.

Yacovone has served several terms as chairperson for the sociology and ethnic studies department, and on May 15 at the annual TAP luncheon, he received two awards. One was from the Academic Senate for his dedication and involvement through shared governance, and the first "Career Transfer Center Outstanding Faculty" plaque was for his never-ending efforts to help students transfer

"Professor Yacovone has encouraged countless students to succeed in higher education," said TAP Counselor Michael Gold in a speech at the luncheon. "Tom has the ability to identify potential and has bolstered students' academic self-confidence."

"I think he's made [TAP] what it is today," said Eileen Pearl from the Los Angeles Valley College foundation, who's known him 20 out of the 43 years he's been at Valley.

"One of my fondest memories of being the TAP director is working with the TAP faculty [because] they're highly committed to work the program, [and] the students," said Yacovone. "It has been wonderful … and I'll miss that."

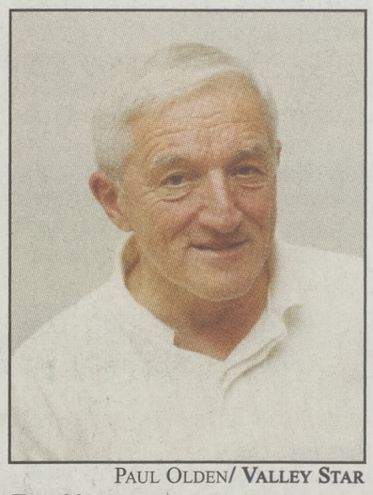
One year after earning a bachelor's and master's degree in sociology from UCLA in 1964, Yacovone became "a tireless fireball educator," according to Gold. "He's like a dog to a bone.…He's really gonna fight for what he wants … and whatever he [goes] after, he gets."

Yacovone said, "I like hard work … and I've enjoyed everything about my career in Valley, including the politics and things that other people jump out of their skin over."

Originally from New York City, the 71-year-old father of three and grandfather of six said, "Because of the different social experiences [students] have, they respond very differently to the subject matter and that's wonderful ... and fascinating."

Sally Raskoff, chairwoman for the sociology and ethnic studies department, remembers her mentor coming to Sociology 1 with countless materials, which "basically was like a snowstorm of papers … and he'd help us

see '*Yacovone*' page 2



PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR
Tom Yacovone

CONSTRUCTION

PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR

TIGHTROPE- Michael Bozoff, 37, of Ironworkers Union Local 433, says he is used to walking narrow steel beams like this windscreen at construction sites. The apprentice welder is part of the crew building the Allied Health and Science Center at the southest end of the Valley College campus, which is scheduled to open in the spring of 2008.

FACE LIFT FOR VALLEY

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

Construction going on at Valley College is nothing new, but on May 2 the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) authorized a $1,220,533 contract for Valley to refurbish the Business/Journalism Building.

"Construction will begin right after finals and run through the summer with work to be completed for the start of the fall semester," Valley President Tyree Wieder said.

The renovation of the Business/Journalism Building will include upgrading classrooms, handicap accessibility and safety. It is a part of the Facilities Master Plan to improve the campus.

"We haven't had any major work done," said new Academic Senate President and Earth Science and Anthropology Department Chair Don Gautier, who is also a member of the Facilities Master Plan for Valley. "[These places] are old. They're dirty. They're decrepit. The bungalows are often poorly heated, poorly ventilated, there's no air conditioning. In the summer they're just little toasters. . . . Part of it is to address the need for a more modern space."

"There's also the fact that most of these buildings are original," continued Gautier. "It's time to replace a lot of the infrastructure too . . . like the distribution of heat and light and the Internet."

Valley has been planning to upgrade the campus since the state bond measures Proposition A and Proposition AA passed in 2001 and 2003, respectively, giving the

see '*Campus*' page 2

Registration Mishap for One-Stop Attendees

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Students lined up as early as 7 a.m. Tuesday for Valley College's One-Stop Registration Day, only to find the computer registration system was down and their one-stop was now a sit-in.

The system that controls all nine local colleges located at the district office went off-line at 5 a.m. Tuesday, causing school officials to cancel the event eventually after students waited patiently for their chance to register.

Nearly 140 students were waiting to sign up for their fall classes, and found upon entering Monarch Hall that they could not register and they could not be assured of when they would be able to do so. The staff made the announcement that the wait was indefinite at 8:30 a.m., 30 minutes after the event was to begin.

The news was met with loud groans and exasperated sighs, but everyone involved in registering was helpful and tried not to show their frustration.

"The folks here are waiting for the hardest classes to get into," said event coordinator and Associate Dean of Extended Opportunity Programs and Services Walter Jones. "It could be 4 hours or 4 minutes until the system is up again."

About half of the students left in a huff and mumbled many unprintable words. Some students grabbed chairs, turned on their iPods and prepared to wait it out.

"I thought coming early would be smart, but the school wasn't ready," said nursing major Kevin Medina. "But I will stay all day if I have to."

However many students did not have the luxury of sitting around waiting for the unknown. Many of those killing time had classes, work to go to or children who needed attention.

"It is horrible," said respiratory major Mary Sian who was busy entertaining her 3-year-old son Adam. "We were here at 7 a.m."

The attitude in the hall was tense but friendly, and there was lots of eye-rolling, but no one really went off the handle. Students read the fall schedule from cover to cover, making secondary plans if their classes filled up.

Some were even able to shrug it off understanding the reality of the predicament, taking a more relaxed attitude.

"What can we do?" asked dental hygiene major Karmen Grigoryan. "If the system is down, it is no one's fault."

FINALS SCHEDULE

All evening classes (3:30 p.m. or later) will have their final exam as follows:

Monday Class:	**June 4**
Tuesday Class:	**May 29**
Wednesday Class:	**May 30**
Thursday Class:	**May 31**
Friday Class:	**June 1**

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY June 4			TUESDAY May 29		
Time of Exam	6:30-8:30 a.m.	9:30-11:30 a.m.	12:30-2:30 p.m.	6:30-8:30 a.m.	9:30-11:30 a.m.	12:30-2:30 p.m.
Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW 6:45 - 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 - 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 - 11:05 MW 9:40-10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 - 2:25 MW 1:00 - 2:15 MWTh	6:30 - 7:55 TTh	9:40 - 11:05 TTh 9:40 - 10:55 TThF	1:00 - 2:25 TTh 1:00 - 2:15 TThF
Day and Date Of Final Exam	**WEDNESDAY May 30**			**THURSDAY May 31**		
Time of Exam	8 - 10 a.m.	10:30-12:30 p.m.	1 - 3 p.m.	8 - 10 a.m.	10:30 - 12:30 p.m.	1 - 3 p.m.
Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 - 9:25 MW 8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 - 12:45 MW 11:20 - 12:35 MWF	2:20 - 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:25 TTh 8:00 - 9:15 TThF	11:20 - 12:45 TTh 11:20 - 12:35 TThF	1:45 - 3:10 TTh 1:45 - 3:00 TThF

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Valley Hands out Many Scholarships

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

After Valley College's Scholarship Awards Night May 17, biopsychology major Edwina Loh stood in a crowd of people congratulating her. In total, Loh received seven scholarships including the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship that will award her with $30,000 a year for three years.

"Before this, I was really worried," said the overwhelmed Loh, who will be transferring to the UCLA this fall. "I couldn't pay for school and now that I got that scholarship I can pay for school and I don't have to work two jobs anymore. No loans. I can live on campus. It's going to be amazing."

Loh was just one of the many Valley students to receive scholarships. In total, Valley awarded 195 scholarships and dually recognized three winners of athletic scholarships, which have already been awarded.

"The most important thing ... is that you remember how much we care about you and how much it means that you are sitting out here," said Don Gautier, the earth science and anthropology department chair and the newly elected academic senate president. "We're very proud of all of you that have done so well, studied so hard [and] made those efforts to overcome all the things that are in your lives."

The scholarships ranged in amounts from $150 to $90,000, but most of the scholarships awarded ranged from $250 to $1,000. The event, which took place in Monarch Hall, is the oldest on campus, beginning in 1950.

Valley President Tyree Wieder said, "It's a night to reflect and to enjoy and to really appreciate all of the work that has gone into this and appreciate all of the work that our students have done to get to this point knowing that this is just the first step, second for some, as they move on to do something else."

The scholarships were awarded in four intervals dispersed by three Showcase Award winners, which are scholarships specifically designated for the arts, performed at various points throughout the evening. Anna Avestisyan performed first playing guitar, Heather Williams acted out two separate scenes, and Bianca Caruso sang.

Though the night focused on students, there was an undeniable feeling of gratitude towards faculty and staff members.

"The reason why I think I got it is only because of my professors," said Loh of the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. "The people who wrote me recommendations were amazing and they believed in me and I think that's why I won. There's nothing else."

Students Want Group to Help Spur Involvement

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

As a response to the perceived epidemic of student apathy, a group of Valley College students are looking to start a chapter of the California Public Interest Research Group, an organization that aims to get young people involved in their schools and communities.

"There are many things that, as students, we can do, but there are not enough active students to do them," said Silvia Jimenez, ASU's commissioner of evening division.

The organization focuses on issues that its members are concerned about. Students spend time both contacting elected officials and arranging activities, like river clean ups.

According to CALPRIG's Web site, "The California State Senate approved the CALPIRG sponsored College Textbooks Affordability Act." The law would require publishers to disclose book prices to instructors "so that faculty can make a decision with cost in mind." The bill has gone on to the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

In order for the organization to get started at Valley, the Los Angeles Community College District's Board of Trustees must first approve the $2 fee the club wants to charge Valley students each semester.

Although "the Board of Trustees will ultimately decide, . . . CALPIRG would like a $2 fee, which would be refundable," said ASU Vice President Jonathan Oskins, one of the club's supporters. "The fee would be paid by all and any student who isn't willing to pay the fee would ask for a refund."

The money would be used to "pay for a campus organizer . . . who will lobby locally, in Sacramento and in Washington, DC on . . . issues that students at LAVC and at the state level vote on as most important," Oskins explained. These votes will be held once a year.

"I believe that this fee may be an issue because students may question why it is mandated, though a waivable fee," said Jimenez. If the Board of Trustees approves the fee and the club is allowed to establish itself at Valley, a vote held every four years would determine if the organization's chapter would remain at the school.

Oskins explained what the organization's potential benefits could be once established on campus. "CALPIRG can benefit students by working on issues with ASU that we have in common, like lowering the cost of textbooks and working independently on issues out of the domain of ASU's constitution," he said.

"If we hate high textbook prices, then let's do something about it instead of complain[ing]," said Jimenez. "CALPIRG working together with other groups on campus, ASU or any other interested party can make more things happen."

Students began the process of starting the club at Valley this semester. Although he could not give a specific time frame, Oskins said CALPIRG will not be in place at Valley by next semester.

Jackson Elected Student Trustee

BY JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Eva Jackson, the current Associated Student Organization president at Los Angeles Southwest College, has been elected as the Los Angeles Community College District's new student trustee.

"She is a strong advocate for students and will be an asset to this position," said John Clerx, the LACCD trustee for Instructional and Student Support Services.

Jackson has attended Southwest College for the past two years and has served as ASO secretary in addition to her current presidency.

"I have found that being part of the student government gives me the opportunity to practice my leadership abilities, all while learning about my fellow peers."

Jackson is a full-time day/evening student at Southwest College majoring in music. When not in the classroom, Jackson spends her time helping the community by volunteering.

"I believe that being involved in the community plays a big part and I am very active in the community," she wrote in her candidate statement.

Jackson has received numerous awards and accommodations for her work with various youth, work, community, music industry, and television outreach programs in addition to being the youngest recipiant to receive The Women of Religious Achievement for mentoring youth in Los Angeles County.

While Jackson's excitement about her new position and underlying altruism shines through in her statements.

"This assignment is not about me, it's about the students as a whole," she wrote. "Communication and teamwork can take you a long way, if you allow it to. Life is simply what you make it."

'Campus'

continued from page 1

college $286 million to better the campus.

"We have completed the first building in the LACCD built with bond funds: the Maintenance and Operations Building and Sheriff's Station," said Wieder. "This building was a certified LEEDs building, Leadership in Energy Efficiency Design."

Construction is well underway for the new Allied Health and Science Building, which is scheduled to be completed by spring 2007. The 98,000-square-foot edifice will unify the science departments on campus by having both lab spaces and faculty offices in the new structure.

"I think [the new building] is going to be motivational as well," said nursing major Leah Bassoni. "Being in the nursing program feels . . . exclusive. It's a little bit of a letdown when you set foot in the classroom . . . [now] we don't really have enough lab space to accommodate the students effectively."

Both gymnasiums are also undergoing construction and there will be a 3,000-square-foot addition to the North Gym to add to the disabled gym. There will also be an Olympic-sized swimming and diving pool and a smaller pool for the community.

There are plans to upgrade the library by adding a second story and refurbishing it and also construct a new Child Development Center, along with many smaller improvements to the parking lots and adding more signs to campus. The renovations are supposed to finish by 2010.

While the construction is a nuisance, the dividends will be worth the detours and the noise.

"It needs to be done," said Bassoni. "I suppose it can be a little inconvenient at times, [but] I'm able to focus on the big picture and we're getting this big beautiful building. In my opinion it will help get more students [to come to Valley]."

'Yacavone'

continued from page 1

make sense of them."

"He's a force of nature," said Raskoff. "When he has an opinion or a goal or a task or wants to have students transfer here, transfer there, or be in TAP, he's a whirlwind."

Although Yacovone decided to retire after spring 2007, his plans moved forward after learning of heart complications.

"The problem with the heart was a real surprise," said Yacovone, who has always been athletic and lean, but after running 5 miles four times a week for 25 years, he wore out his knee and decided to swim.

When swimming about seven months ago, he "felt mildly lightheaded," but had no chest pain, and "never had this sensation before." On different occasions his wife commented that he was out of breath from normal activities, so he went to UCLA for an angiogram.

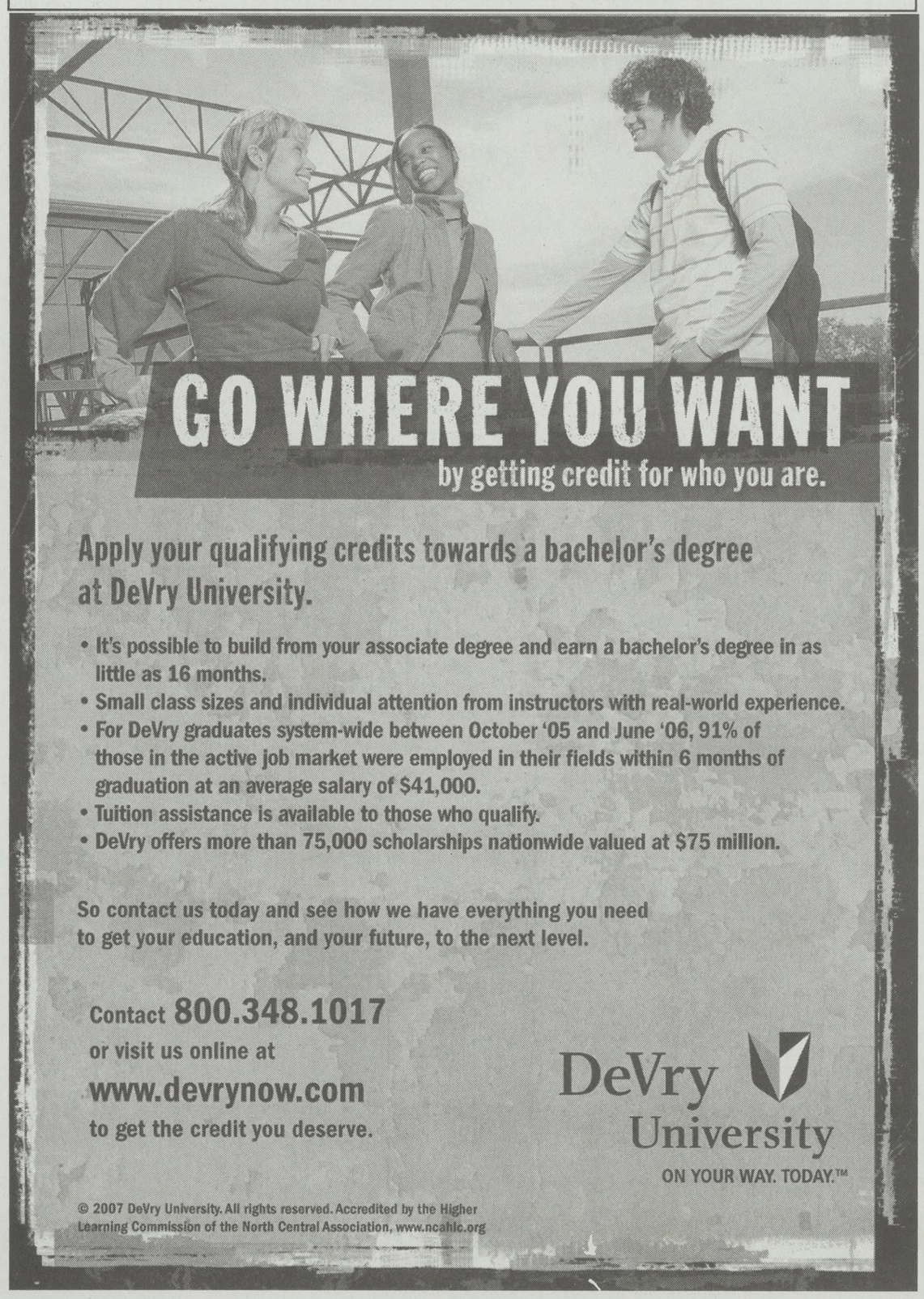
After being examined, the cardiologist found that Yacovone had had two complete heart attacks and blockages in major arteries. Because his collateral circulation was good from exercising, the heart received enough blood even after the blockage and there was no heart damage.

Yacovone had a 12-hour open-heart surgery, which guaranteed 20 more years, and a 90th birthday. "I went in for a bypass of five different arteries and [an aortic valve replacement] …now I feel great and should be able to start swimming in a couple weeks, and I'm already hiking."

Yacovone will continue teaching Sociology 1 and 2 part-time.

"Retirement will enable me to see my grandkids play soccer, softball, or whatever sport their playing," said Yacovone. "And that's difficult when you're working full-time."

CLASSES NOW STARTING IN SHERMAN OAKS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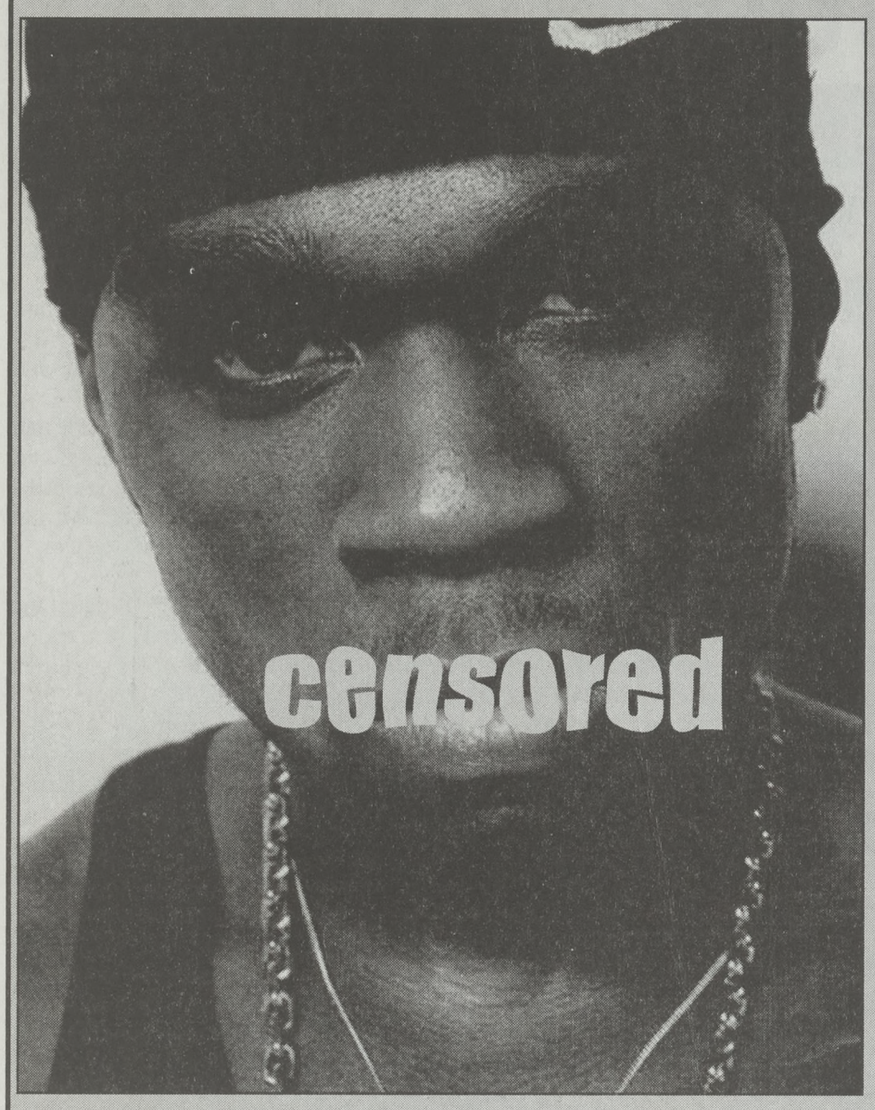
AN OPINION

Rap Lyrics Under Fire Again



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CENSORSHIP NOW - Rappers like 50 Cent face political efforts to censor their lyrics.

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Freedom of speech is one of America's greatest assets. The ability to speak freely and share your thoughts, regardless of who they may anger or offend, is something everyone should cherish. Being able to express your views in the face of any challenge or adversity is what makes this country unique.

The media is attacking that freedom and we must do all we can to stop them before its taken from us. Rap music is once again censorship's top target. The hypocritical reasoning behind the latest media blitz is one all too familiar to rap fans: society's overall benefit.

As difficult as it is to put such heartwarming philanthropy aside and focus, we can't afford not to. Censorship is a serious issue that affects everyone, regardless of political, social and racial backgrounds. The latest onslaught of anti-rap sentiment spearheading the calls for censorship is particularly troubling because of the repercussions it may have.

A historically minority-driven culture and entertainment outlet, rap music has often been a forum for a less than fortunate group of people to speak their minds about issues concerning them and share their experiences. The fact that a majority of rappers came from a world filled with poverty, oppression and crime doesn't exactly make for stories with fairy tale endings.

Rapper Tupac Shakur, who was a victim of harsh criticism because of his lyrics, summed it up best in one of his songs. "They say my ghetto instrumentals are detrimental to kids/ As if they can't see the misery in which they live."

Songs speaking out against police brutality, racism and unfair policies are filled with the frustration and anger of people fed up with the conditions of their neighborhoods and lives. Not so subtle social messages denouncing the police and the government from rap pioneers like N.W.A and Ice-T became big news in the past and the pressure to silence them was swift.

'Don't shoot the messenger,' goes the old adage. That logic appeared to be ignored by the overwhelming number of lawmakers, policemen and everyday citizens who attempted to crucify the rappers for their message. The fact that most of the people involved in rap don't know they can go to a city council meeting or talk to their local elected officials made the music their only voice.

Somewhere along the way, it's clear that the whole topic of social injustice has gotten lost in the commotion and been replaced by the much more convenient push to censor.

Art imitates life and while rap music may not appeal to every person, it remains an art form for an entire afflicted community to freely exercise the right to share their voice. The lyrics won't always be decent and the words may cause controversy, but that's because the problems existed in society long before rap. Any attempts to hinder that voice, let alone for such wrong reasons, are unacceptable.

When talk radio host Don Imus uttered his now infamous comments degrading a group of collegiate standouts from Rutgers University, it caused a public uproar across the nation. The fact that a 66-year-old white man would relegate a group of Black women with outstanding accomplishments to "nappy-headed hos" was an inexcusable example of a problem America knows all too well - racism.

With the light fully shining on racism and its ugly realities becoming a hot topic, it was apparently crunch time to find a scapegoat that would once again redirect attention away from the real issue. Cue the loud music, controversial lyrics and "urban" fashion; rap music unwillingly came to the rescue.

Since the Imus comments, the Washington Post reported that top executives from four of the country's biggest labels are feeling the pressure to censor lyrics and that Ebony magazine pulled rapper Ludacris from its June cover. Imus himself appeared on Rev. Al Sharpton's show and asked why it was wrong for him to make his comments when rappers regularly say similar things in their songs.

It's shameful to watch such an obvious attempt to shift the blame be endorsed by so many people. If the betterment of society is really the motivation, action needs to be taken to actually fix poor communities and educate people. Censoring whatever words are deemed inappropriate today sets a dangerous precedent that goes against one of this country's dearest ideals.

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters and emails should be limited to 300 words, may be edited for publication and include a subject line of letter to the editor.

AN OPINION

Pop Culture Dwarfs Our Political Reality

BY ANDY FEHER
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

For the first five months of the year, the media have bombarded us with Rosie O'Donnell versus Donald Trump, Anna Nicole Smith versus methadone, Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie and Lindsay Lohan versus food and (who could forget?) Alec Baldwin versus his 11-year-old daughter.

It's almost as if there hasn't been any real news this year.

Here are some of the important events this year that have happened while the media wasted the public's time with trivialities:

In the global arena, problems in Iraq, Iran and Russia have intensified.

For Iraqis, the year began on a grim note, and little has changed to alter that outlook. In January, footage of Saddam Hussein's execution surfaced on YouTube. The inept Iraqi government rushed the execution to avoid a Shia holiday, despite the fact that the day in question was a Sunni holy day.

The event became a debacle because loyalists mocked Hussein, a Sunni, by chanting for Moqtada al-Sadr, the fanatical leader of the Mahdi army.

What's worse is that the execution violated Iraq's constitution; executions require the signatures of the president and two vice presidents, which Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ignored, setting a terrible precedent that could instigate more sectarian hangings.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's quest for nuclear weapons is still progressing no matter how many resolutions the United Nations passes. If Iran succeeds, they could spark an arms race in the Middle East.

In the meantime, the theocracy supplies financial backing to terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah, threatens Israel's existence and kidnaps British sailors with impunity.

Boris Yeltsin, the first democratically elected president of Russia, passed away April 23 taking with him Russia's last remnant of democracy. Vladimir Putin, the current president, restricts free press by killing journalists who voice dissent, flexes Russia's petroleum muscles by threatening to shut off gas pipelines to both Estonia and Ukraine and along with China, tacitly approves the Sudanese government's prosecution of genocide in Darfur.

Nationally, a recent Newsweek poll found 71 percent of Americans said they were dissatisfied with the direction of the country – most of the vitriol stems from congressional and presidential imprudence, while the Supreme Court made two milestone 5-4 decisions.

The Supreme Court's April decision in Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reprimanded the Bush administration for its failure to address global warming.

According to USA Today, the decision declared, "carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases qualify as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act and thus can be regulated by the EPA." On May 14 President Bush took action by demanding federal agencies come up with a method to regulate car emissions before he leaves office.

Another case in April, Gonzalez v. Carhart, upheld a ban on partial birth abortion. Although social conservatives rejoiced, many Democrats viewed the decision as a portent for the eventual reversal of the 1973 Roe v. Wade case.

The aging court could provide more fireworks if two of the most liberal justices, John Paul Stevens, 85 and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 74 decide to retire.

As lurid distractions grow, more legitimate dangers get overlooked. Eccentrics like Anna Nicole Smith and Don Imus at times offer a respite from the problems in the world, but the news should concentrate on matters that actually affect the world's future.

AN OPINION

Murdoch Murders Mainstream Media

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Rupert Murdoch's attempt to buy the Wall Street Journal's parent company is the latest example of the media mogul's attempts to transform journalism into full-time editorializing.

Murdoch made an unsolicited $5-billion bid earlier this month for Dow Jones & Co., which owns the Wall Street Journal. The Australian mogul's News Corporation owns FOX's entertainment companies, FOX News Channel and various newspapers in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. Among them are the Times of London, the Sunday Times, the New York Post and the British tabloid, the Sun.

During the media blitz after the announcement of his offer, Murdoch ignored reality as he tried to soften his reputation for imposing his beliefs on his news organization. "We have a history of long stewardship of great newspapers," he wrote in a letter to the Bancroft family, who controls Dow Jones. "We think we would be the ideal partner to grow and expand your company, as well as protect such a vital public trust."

Murdoch's forays into journalism, both print and broadcast, do not inspire confidence in his ability to retain the reputation of such a well-respected newspaper. His company's newspapers are not known for their journalistic excellence. The Post is best known for its "Page Six" gossip column and the Sun is notorious in the UK for its sensationalist approach to reporting.

Murdoch's FOX News has never been anything other than a mouthpiece for the Republican Party parading as a news organization.

Murdoch's FOX News has never been anything other than a mouthpiece for the Republican Party parading as a news organization. Although it claims to offer "fair and balanced" coverage, the channel's reporting on the story that Illinois Sen. Barack Obama attended a madrassa, or Islamic religious school, while living in Indonesia as a child is indicative of its overt bias against "the left."

Rather than acting like responsible journalists and investigating the claims, FOX's anchors reported the story (which was later disproved when CNN went to the school) as fact and enjoyed themselves foretelling the downfall of the Democratic politician.

Some of Dow Jones' shareholders, including a majority of the Bancroft family, are against any takeover by Murdoch because of the questionable ethics of his other media ventures.

"The Bancroft family has treated Dow Jones as a public trust," said James Ottaway, Jr., a former Dow Jones board member and a shareholder. "The family has protected its inheritance as a responsibility to protect an important national institution that plays a major role in American democracy and debates of public issues because of its editorial independence and high news quality standards."

Murdoch admitted that his company's publications and television channels present news in a way that attempts to further his agenda.

While discussing the media's influence during a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in February, Murdoch said, "I think good, strong news organizations can, by disclosing things, help shape the agenda, but in a limited way . . . I think we tried [to shape perception of the war] . . . We basically supported . . . the Bush policy."

Journalism is not supposed to simply be another way for the government to spread its propaganda. The point of any type of journalism should be to present its audience with all the facts and then leave it to them (and the editorial pages) to analyze the facts and determine what they do or do not mean.

Murdoch, in all his dealings with news organizations, has shown nothing but disrespect for the consumers and their ability to make their own conclusions. The outrage over his attempt to buy the Wall Street Journal is not simply about the possible loss of a trusted newspaper – it's about the larger problem of increasing bias in news reporting, of which Murdoch and News Corp. are the most well-known symbols.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY PAUL OLDEN
TEXT BY JESSICA SHAFFER

What Do You Think of the Effort to Censor Lyrics in Music?

"I think a little censoring would be great because they do say some rude things sometimes."

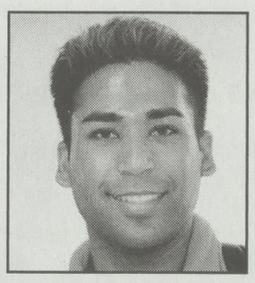
Patricia Perry
Computer Science /Information Technology

"I don't think we should censor it. If it's that big a deal, then certain people just shouldn't listen to it. It's freedom of speech."

Courtney Crosby
Kinesiology

"I think they should be censored because it has a big influence on our kids. The young kids . . . take it seriously . . . and they do what they hear."

Regge Prince
Psychology



"I think that's a positve step in today's society because a lot of young kids . . . look up to the rappers . . . and I think it does make a difference."

Robin Vyas
Sociology

VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, May 23

Administration of Justice Club Meeting @ Valley Foreign Language Room 102; 2:30 p.m.

Last Minute Success Strategies @ Valley Writing Center; Humanities 100; 3 - 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 24

LAVC Honors Concert @ Music Recital Hall 106; 11:30 a.m.; Free

M.E.Ch.A Meeting @ Foreign Language Room 111; 2:30 p.m.

Child Development Club Meeting @ Math Science Room 114; 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Broadway Showcase @ Music Recital Hall 106; 3:00 p.m.; Free

Sound & Fury: Development, Damage & Regeneration of the Inner Ear by Andy Groves @ Mainstage Theater; 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20

Veterans' Club Meeting @ Foreign Language Room 108; 1 - 2 p.m.

M.E.Ch.A Meeting @ Foreign Language Room 111; 2:30 p.m

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, May 23

How to Transfer Workshop
1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, May 24

Interview Skills Workshop
1 - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 29

CSU Northridge Rep.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 30

CSU Los Angeles Rep.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UCLA Rep.
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For further information and to sign-up for activities, contact the Career/ Transfer Center in Adm. 126 or at (818) 947-2646.

Top 5 Online Stories

1. Adoption is not a Publicity Stunt 267 reads

2. GOP Debate Lacks Potential Leaders 133 reads

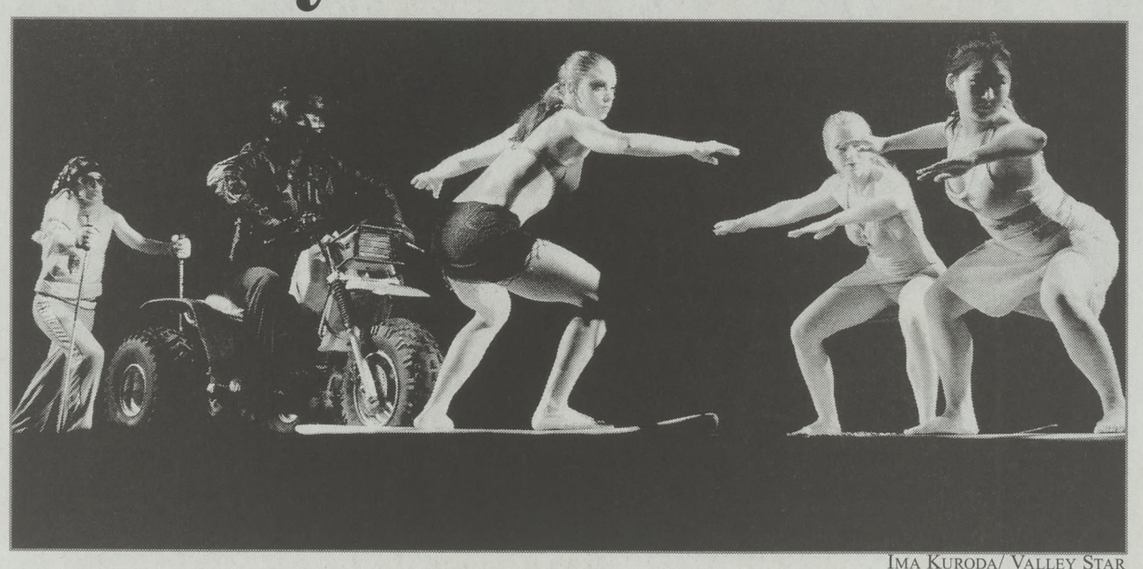
3. Popularity a Liability in Democratic Debate 82 reads

4. Speech Class Skirmish 60 reads

5. Valley Dance 54 reads

To read these and more stories, visit the Valley Star online at lavalleystar.com.

Valley's Dancers Stun Audience



IMA KURODA/ VALLEY STAR

"GOIN' NOWHERE" - Valley College Students perform in the dance piece, "Goin' Nowhere" at the spring dance concert, "Movement and Migration."

BY KHARA HUBERMAN
COPY EDITOR

Fierce movements, simple costumes, and 50 dancers made Valley College's "Migration and Movement" a successful sold out event.

Valley's sixth annual spring concert, which featured 12 acts, sold out and turned patrons away May 18, but the next night, all were welcome, filling more than 225 seats in the Mainstage Theater.

"This is a great place to express your own creativity. Everyone brings their own unique skill, attitude and energy to the pieces," said student choreographer Jake Mason. "I really didn't expect it going into a college show, but this is one of the most professionally run … dance shows that I have been involved in or seen in L.A."

Visitor to Valley, Anastacia McPherson's favorite display was fourth act "Pecking 'Order.'" The former contestant of the reality TV show, "Pussycat Dolls Present: The Search for the Next Doll" said, "I really enjoyed the pecking, which was . . . the bird dance at the beginning with the nun suits."

The contemporary display began with two female birds (Chanel Banoza and Kimmy Marshall) nestled and fluffing their feathers. The all female cast wore simple costumes that resembled nuns' habits with a white bride-like transparent veil tied as a large bow around their wastes.

The fragile winged creature, Milva Rinaldelli died before the flock journeyed back on stage. They wrapped her in a long snowy veil, and removed her from the stage. The presentation ended with the original two birds nuzzling again, portraying the cycle of life.

The two-hour program included modern jazz, hip-hop, tap and a West African routine.

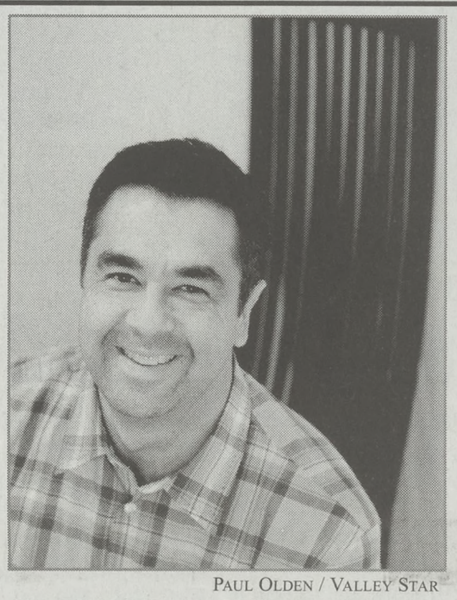
"The African dance was outstanding and the energy in the crowd was amazing, especially when some stood up and joined the performers in front of their seats," said patron Wayne Aceman. "[I] feel like I am bringing home a part of Africa."

The finale "Spiritual Awakening," was choreographed by Laila Abdullah and featured a live Burkina Faso drumming pattern performed by Ben-yusef, Malik and Omar Abdullah. Dancers included Donna-Marie Garcia, Adrian Jacobs, Rafael Lopez, and eight others.

The dancing throughout the display resembled krumping, which is a free, expressive and highly energetic dance form that originated in the African-American community in South Central, L.A. according to Dictionary.com.

"[The program] was kind of like healing," said McPherson. "I felt like every piece had something to say and it was great."

Dauber's Top Five Books



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

Journalism instructor Bill Dauber shares his top five books that students might enjoy.

Many of my students say they don't have time to read and that books just don't hold their attention. It's with their words in mind that I compiled my list, not of my top five books, but a list of books that start fast and end faster.

1. **"The Things They Carried"** by Tim O'Brien. Give O'Brien one paragraph, the first 271 words, and you'll be hooked. This novel details the lives of Vietnam soldiers and the things they carried into battle, both physical and mental, and the things they carried home. The writing is just plain great, and I think the subject is important today.

2. **"No Country for Old Men"** by Cormac McCarthy. My favorites of McCarthy include the border trilogy: "All the Pretty Horses," "The Crossing," and "Cities of the Plain." "No Country" is a good place to start because this book is less work than his others, and it features a fantastic beginning. It's a dark novel about a drug deal that went bad and an old-fashioned sheriff who realizes that he's dealing with a different type of criminal, one that he doesn't want to become like in order to catch.

3. **"In Cold Blood"** by Truman Capote. I was living alone when I first picked up this book and made the mistake of reading it at night. The book details the murder of a Kansas farm family in 1959, and the author takes you so close to the residents of Holcomb and the murderers that it's scary. This book introduced me to literature as nonfiction. Read it during the day.

4. **"The Year of Magical Thinking"** by Joan Didion. My hope is that once you start reading Didion you won't stop. With all her books, you get a sense that Didion spends a lot of time searching for the perfect paragraph, sentence and word. "Magical Thinking" is a gift to Didion's readers as she writes about her husband who died suddenly and a daughter who is battling a life-threatening illness. Didion consults experts about the medical and psychological experience of grief, but it's her feelings of grief and the ability to express them perfectly that makes this book great.

5. **"The English Patient"** by Michael Ondaatje. I remember calling friends on the telephone just to read them passages from Ondaatje's book. This novel, which has been translated into 300 languages, chronicles the lives of four damaged people living in an Italian villa at the end of World War II. Read this book for the language and share it.

Top Five Hit Summer Films

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Summer is almost here and the big Hollywood blockbusters are already rolling out. With "Spider-Man 3" breaking all known records, it is time to take a look back at some of the films that defined the summer blockbuster. These pictures paved the way for "Pirates of the Caribbean 3," "Shrek 3" or any movie that makes us stand in line for hours listening to people spouting out random facts about how many Jedi there are or that have budgets larger than some countries' gross income. So, here are my picks for five summer hits worth seeing again.

5. **Raiders of the Lost Ark.** Directed by Steven Spielberg. Released June 12, 1981.

Spielberg, George Lucas and Harrison Ford combined to make one of the greatest adventure films in history by paying homage to the serials of cinema's golden age such as "Spy Smasher" and "Zorro's Fighting Legion." Indiana Jones has become a pop icon who made fedoras and beat up leather jackets signs of a true adventurer. He ushered in a fear of snakes that weren't on a plane.

4. **The Lion King.** Directed by Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff. Released June 15, 1994.

Singing jungle animals were nothing new for Disney, but this animated take on "Hamlet" was the greatest point for traditional animation at the House of Mouse. The film was the highest grossing animated feature in history until Pixar ushered in the computer-animated blockbuster. You know the characters, you have seen the Broadway show and sometimes you get "Hakuna Matata" stuck in your head for no good reason.

3. **Batman Begins.** Directed by Chris Nolan. Released June 15, 2005.

The age of the super-hero movie was created by "Superman" in 1978, but alas the film was released in December, taking it out of the running for summer blockbusters. So, I went with "Batman Begins," which is arguably the best super-hero film since "Superman." Forget the Tim Burton visual circus that was "Batman," this film stripped the caped crusader down to his most basic elements and did what no other Bat-film had done -- it made him scary and haunting.

2. **The Empire Strikes Back.** Directed by Irvin Kershner. Released May 21, 1980.

So you were expecting to see "Star Wars" on the list? While I have much love for the Lucas classic, "Empire" is a superior film in just about every way. Kershner gets some amazing performances from the familiar cast and takes everything to the next level. No Ewoks, no Jawas, just pure action and romance with a secret revealed so amazing and simple that no one saw it coming. "Luke I am your father," was that one line that gave birth to a universe of sequels and prequels and sci-fi has never been the same.

1. **Jaws.** Directed by Steven Spielberg. Released June 20, 1975.

The father of all summer blockbusters was born in 1975 when a frustrated new director named Spielberg made a film about a great white shark that terrorizes an island beach community. This was the first true summer blockbuster. Look at the other films on the list, notice their release dates? "Jaws" was the monster hit that gave Hollywood the idea of "event pictures" and also made me afraid of taking a bath.

How to Keep Sane During Finals Week

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

As Valley College students write their final papers and study for exams, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by everything. Here are some helpful pieces of advice on successfully navigating the end of the semester.

1. **Start early.** Students should make sure to give themselves enough time to finish everything. Although some people may say they work better under pressure, students will be more productive if they're not overwhelmed by stress.

2. **Prioritize.** Determine which projects should be done first based on due dates, how much each project is worth compared to others and how work-intensive it is.

The same goes for finals – rank them based on when the test is, how much it is worth and how well the student understands the material. Once the work is prioritized, schedule time for each project or test accordingly.

3. **Get sleep.** This piece of advice may sound obvious, but seeing the end of the semester nearing often prompts many college students to pull all nighters.

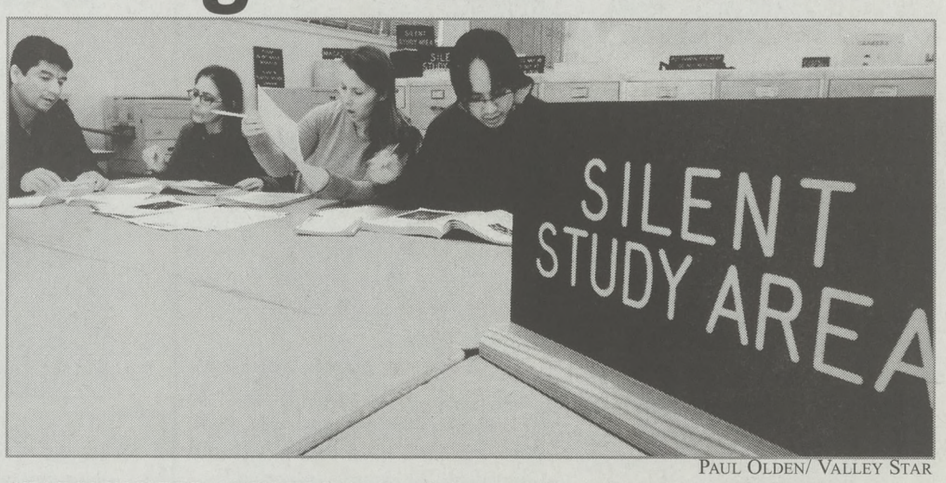
Although these all-night study and work sessions may increase the number of hours available to a busy student, they also decrease productivity and alertness. If it is not possible to get eight hours, set aside time to take a nap.

4. **If students don't understand something, get help.** Instructors are students' best resources, especially since teachers know their grading criteria.

Valley also offers many services that can help, especially during this time of year. These include numerous tutoring labs on campus. In order to receive help in these labs, students need to have their student identification cards and a copy of their registration receipt (available at the Admissions office).

5. **Relax.** Make sure to take breaks from studying or putting together final projects. It is stunning how much going for a walk or a drive or even just taking a shower can refresh the mind.

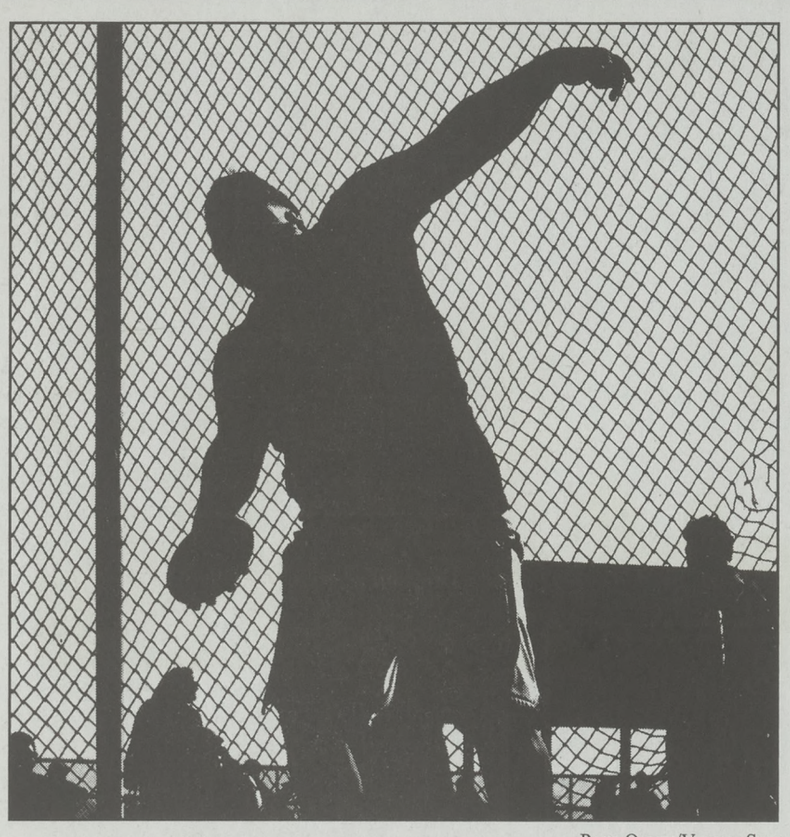
Students need to get away from their work and give themselves something else to think about. It will help to reduce stress and the student will return to work refreshed and better able to think.



PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS: Valley College students (L to R) Martin Posada, LeeAnn DiGiacomo, Alena Jezkoba and Shih Hwa Lai spend time quietly studying in the campus library. Finals week runs from Tuesday, May 30 to Monday, June 5.

Sports Gallery

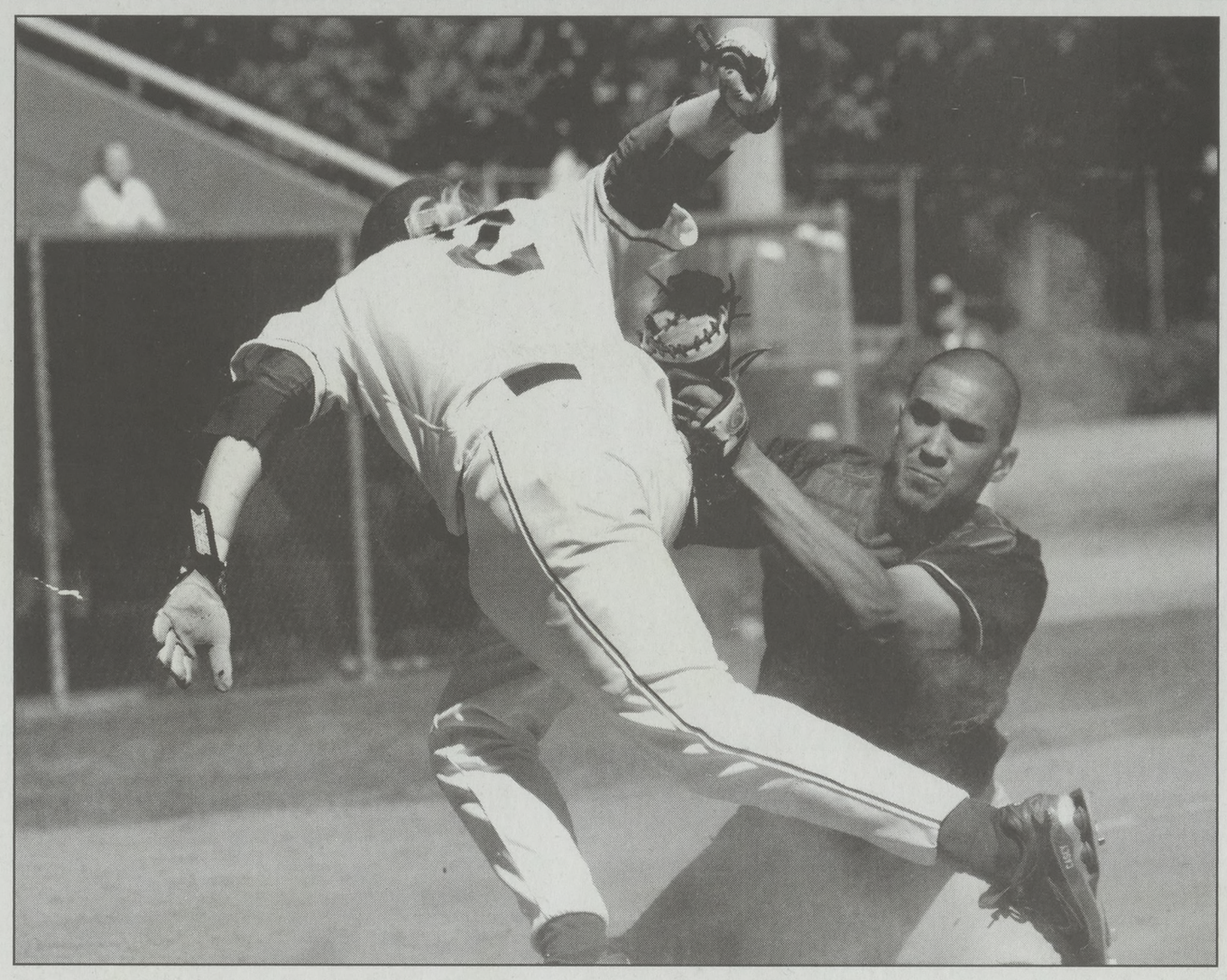


Paul Olden/Valley Star

Shawn O'Connor looks majestic when throwing the discus.

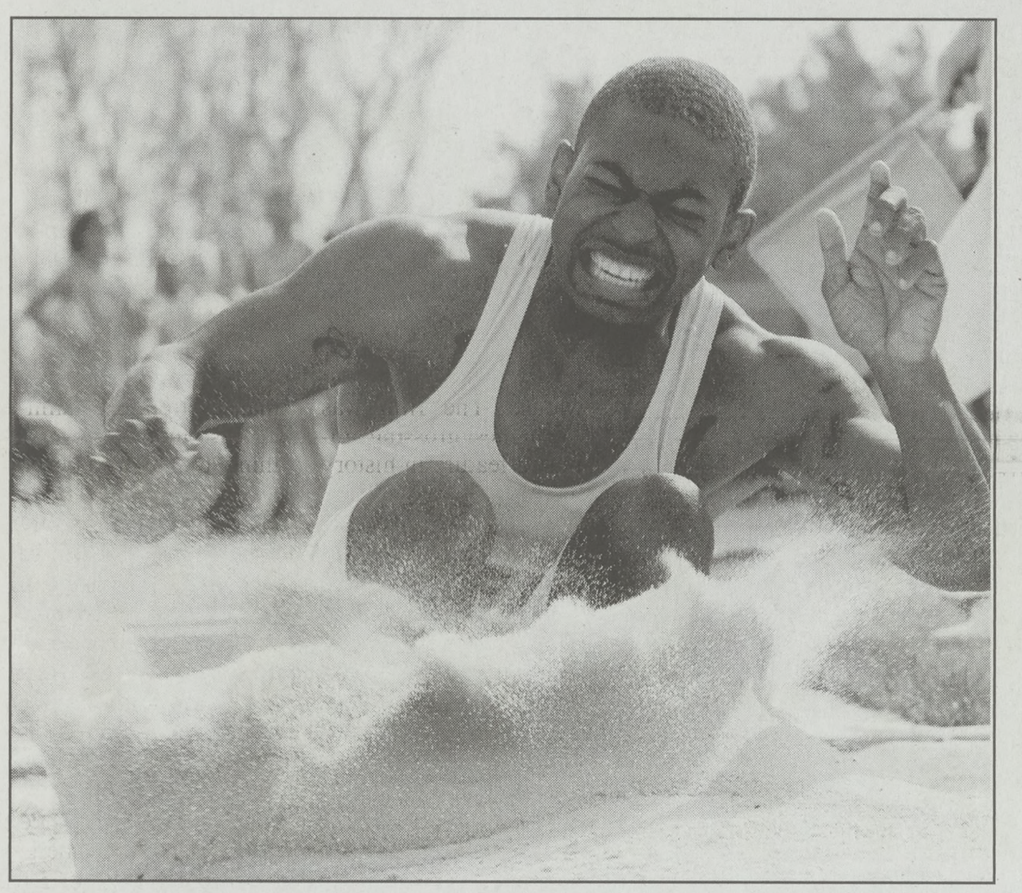
Texy By Paul Olden

It's not possible to run every picture we love each week. But now in our final issue of the semester, we can play catch up and show you some of the photos that have been waiting for their place in the sun. - See you next semester!



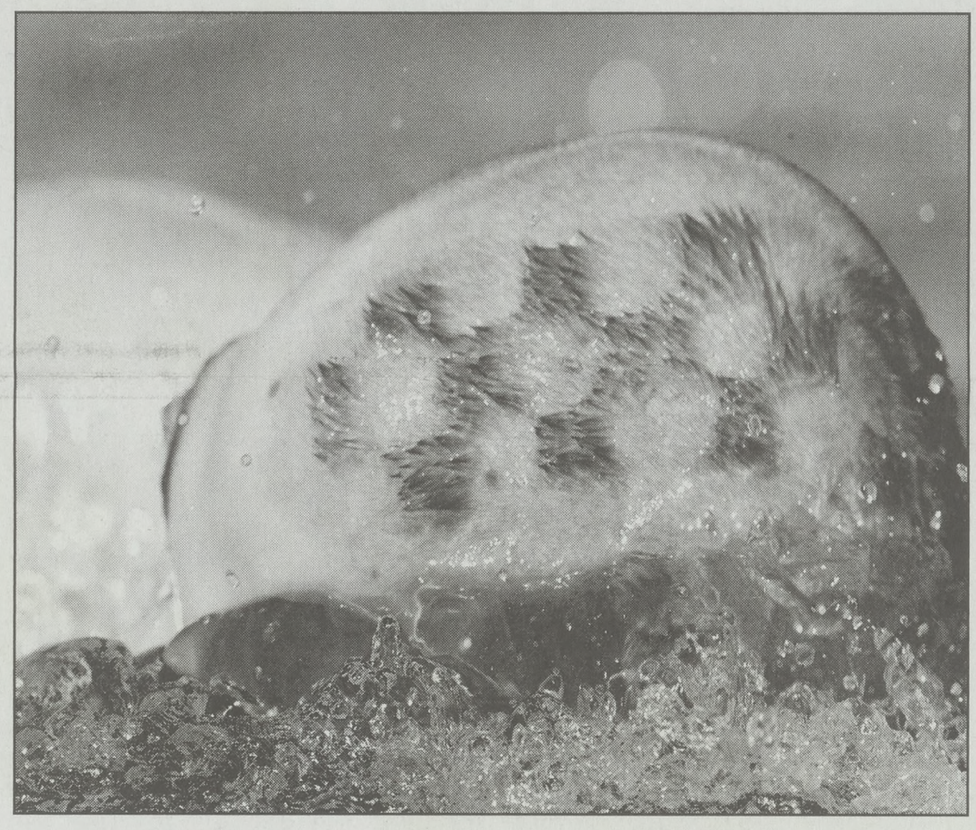
Sammy Sabourin tags out a Glendale College base-runner.

Paul Olden/Valley Star



Paul Olden/Valley Star

Clarence Walton kicks up sand in the long jump.

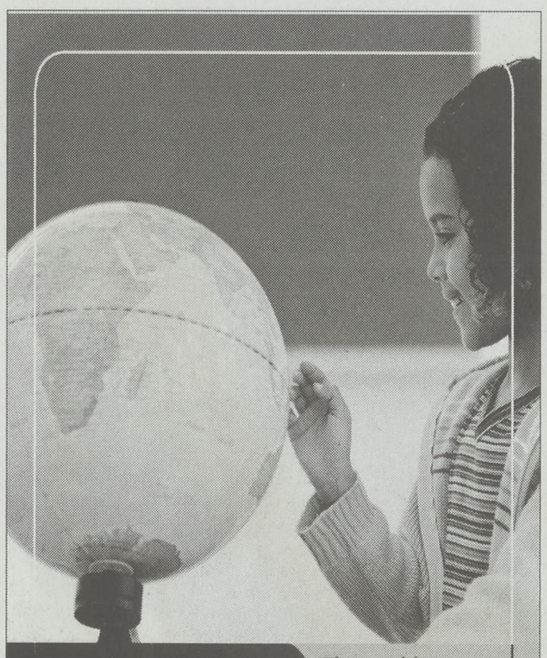


Paul Olden/Valley Star

Jacob Cook gets creative with his hair style in the pool.

Have any story ideas?
Know of any events going on at Valley?
Stop by the newsroom in BJ114
and let us know!

The Valley Star needs graphic artists, writers & cartoonists. Give us a call at (818) 947-2576 or e-mail us at thevalleystar@yahoo.com Visit us online at www.lavalleystar.com



teaching tip #13

The world you teach is the world they will change.

If you have not yet completed your bachelor's degree and are at least 22 years of age with 60 college units: APU can help you earn your degree one night a week for 19 months, and become a teacher through our human development (HDEV) program. APU offers an innovative, alternative degree completion program at seven Southern California locations, designed to provide subject-matter preparation for prospective elementary school and K-12 special education teachers. APU also offers other adult degree completion programs in organizational leadership, nursing, computer information/management information systems, and Christian leadership.

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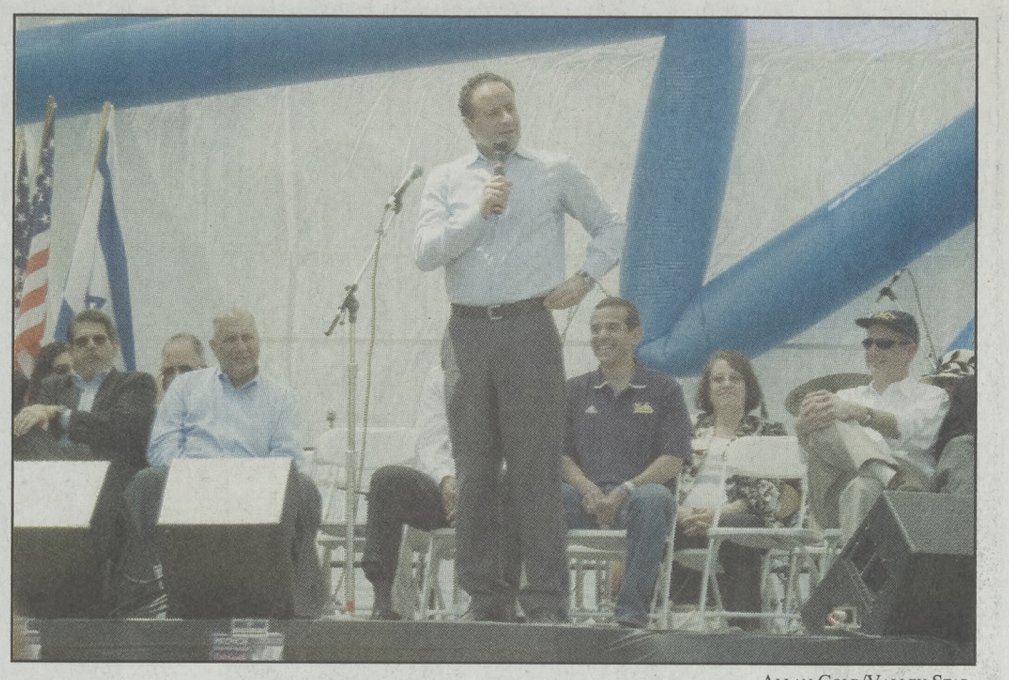
LA VC
Los Angeles Valley College

GALLERY

IMA KURODA/VALLEY STAR

SUBBING FOR EDDIE: Actor Eddie Murphy's stand-in during 2007 Academy Awards rehearsal at Kodak Theater in Hollywood, California.



ALLAN GOLD/VALLEY STAR

ISRAELI FESTIVAL AT BALBOA PARK: The Consul General of Israel, Rami Danoch, introduces Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. May, 2007

Parting Shots

PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR

EYE ON THE UNIVERSE: A sunny day illuminates the dome of The Planetarium At Los Angeles Valley College.

PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR

THE PEACEFUL MAY DAY RALLY: Downtown Los Angeles was the site of this march by demonstrators in support of immigration reform. A later rally in MacArthur Park was marred by violence among participants and the Los Angeles Police Department.

BEHIND THE LENS: Ricardo Barrera, photo editor. Photographers - Allan Gold, Ima Kuroda, Paul Olden.

PAUL OLDEN/VALLEY STAR

TICKET TO RIDE: The popular Orange Line bus makes one of its frequent stops at the Valley College bus station. A zoomed camera lens provides the motion effect.

PAUL OLDEN/VALLEY STAR

CLAIM YOUR ARROWS: Valley College student retrieves his Arrows during on-campus archery class.